

## **UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE TO VISIT ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE**

### **August Visit Will Focus on Future of Base, Role Ellsworth Plays in National Defense**

**Washington, DC (August 9, 2010)** – U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin today announced that Undersecretary of the Air Force Erin Conaton has accepted her invitation to visit Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota at the end of August.

Conaton, the No. 2 civilian official in the Air Force, will be at Ellsworth for events on Aug. 26-27 focused on the future of the base and the role that it plays in our overall national defense. Further details about the visit will be released as they become available.

"Ellsworth Air Force Base remains one of my top priorities in Congress," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "I invited Undersecretary Conaton to South Dakota so she could see firsthand the vital role Ellsworth plays in our national defense as well as the strong community support for the base. With the Air Force's recent decision to expand Ellsworth's mission, it's more important than ever for top Air Force officials to see the base firsthand."

Rep. Herseth Sandlin invited Undersecretary Conaton to South Dakota during a July meeting in Washington. Over the past 14 months, Rep. Herseth Sandlin has met with all the key Air Force leadership, including Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz and Air Force Secretary Michael Donley. Rep. Herseth Sandlin requested these meetings to directly discuss the key issues facing Ellsworth.

###